

1-12. (canceled)

13. (currently amended) A method of displaying a soft key label set on a telephone having a display monitor, the method comprising:

storing a plurality of soft key label sets wherein one of the plurality of the soft key label sets has ~~an application a function~~ in a particular context and includes a ~~plurality of text strings text string~~;

retrieving the one of the plurality of the soft key label sets based on the particular context from a call manager object which resides outside the telephone; and

displaying the one of the plurality of the soft key label sets on the display such that each ~~the text string from the plurality of text strings~~ corresponds to a physical button on the telephone, and;

changing the one of the plurality of the soft key label sets to another of the plurality of the soft key label sets when the context changes,

wherein, while the ~~text strings are one of the plurality of the soft key label sets is being changed, the one of the plurality of the soft key label sets is deactivated the physical button is deactivated.~~

14. (previously presented) A method as recited in claim 13 wherein an index is invoked by one of a line handler object and a call plane object.

15. (previously presented) A method as recited in claim 13 wherein a valid mask is invoked by one of a line handler object and a call plane object.

16. (original) A method as recited in claim 13 wherein a subset of the plurality of soft key labels is stored remotely.

17. (original) A method as recited in claim 13 further comprising using an index to retrieve a soft key label set wherein a value for the index is determined based on the particular context.

18. (original) A method as recited in claim 17 further comprising invalidating one or more text strings in a soft key label set using a valid mask associated with the index.

19. (original) A method as recited in claim 13 further comprising determining the particular context the telephone is in at any given time during its operation.

20. (original) A method as recited in claim 19 further comprising examining a database associated with the telephone to determine the particular context of the telephone.

21-24. (canceled)

25. (currently amended) A computer-readable medium containing programmed instructions arranged to display a soft key label set on a telephone having a display monitor, the computer-readable medium including programmed instructions for:

storing a plurality of soft key label sets wherein one of the plurality of the soft key label sets has ~~an application~~ a function in a particular context and includes a ~~plurality of text strings~~ text string;

retrieving the one of the plurality of the soft key label sets based on the particular context from a call manager object ~~which resides outside the telephone~~; and

displaying the one of the plurality of the soft key label sets on the display such that each ~~the text string from the plurality of text strings~~ corresponds to a physical button on the telephone, and:

changing the one of the plurality of the soft key label sets to another of the plurality of the soft key label sets when the context changes.

wherein, while the ~~text strings are one of the plurality of the soft key label sets is being changed, the one of the plurality of the soft key label sets is deactivated~~ the physical button is deactivated.

26-28. (canceled)